CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for managing a graphics display associated with an embedded system, said graphics display accessible by at least a first and second application program executable by said embedded system, said apparatus comprising:

a graphics resource manager executable by said embedded system;

wherein said graphics resource manager is configured to prevent simultaneous access of said graphics display by said application programs.

2. An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said embedded system includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

displaying an on-screen display;

selecting the first application via the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display when the first application is selected; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager to start the first application program when the first application program is selected.

3. An apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the first application;

exiting the first application;

sending a message to the graphics resource manager when the first application

has been exited; and

displaying the on-screen display.

4. An apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting the second application via the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display when the second application is selected; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager to start the second application when the second application is selected.

5. An apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the second application;

exiting the second application;

sending a message to the graphics resource manager when the second application has been exited; and

displaying the on-screen display.

6. An apparatus as recited in claim 5, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager to suspend the on-screen display.

7. An apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

displaying television content.

8. An apparatus for managing a graphics display associated with an embedded system, said graphics display accessible by at least a first and second application program executable by said embedded system, said apparatus comprising:

a microprocessor; and

means, executable by said microprocessor, for preventing simultaneous access of said graphics display by said application programs.

9. An apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said means for preventing simultaneous access of said graphics display by said application programs comprises:

a graphics resource manager program.

10. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

displaying an on-screen display;

selecting the first application via the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display when the first application is selected; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program to start the first application program when the first application program is selected.

11. A system as recited in claim 8, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the first application;

exiting the first application;

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program when the first application has been exited; and

displaying the on-screen display.

12. A system as recited in claim 11, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting the second application via the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display when the second application is selected; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program to start the second application when the second application is selected.

13. A system as recited in claim 12, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the second application;

exiting the second application;

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program when the second application has been exited; and

displaying the on-screen display.

14. A system as recited in claim 13, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program to suspend the on-screen display.

15. A system as recited in claim 14, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

displaying television content.

16. In an embedded system having a graphics display accessible by at least a first and second application program executable by said embedded system, the improvement comprising:

a graphics resource manager program executable by said embedded system;

wherein said graphics resource manager program is configured to prevent simultaneous access of said graphics display by said application programs.

17. An improvement as recited in claim 16, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

displaying an on-screen display;

selecting the first application via the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display when the first application is selected; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program to start the first application program when the first application program is selected.

18. An improvement as recited in claim 17, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the first application;

exiting the first application;

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program when the first application has been exited; and

displaying the on-screen display.

19. An improvement as recited in claim 18, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting the second application via the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display when the second application is selected; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program to start the second application when the second application is selected.

20. An improvement as recited in claim 19, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the second application;

exiting the second application;

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program when the second application has been exited; and

displaying the on-screen display.

21. An improvement as recited in claim 20, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program to suspend the on-screen display.

22. An improvement as recited in claim 21, further comprising programming for carrying out the operations of:

displaying television content.

23. A method for managing a graphics display associated with an embedded system wherein said graphics display is accessible by at least a first and second application program executable by said embedded system, comprising:

providing a graphics resource manager program executable by said embedded system;

wherein said graphics resource manager program is configured to prevent simultaneous access of said graphics display by said application programs.

24. A method as recited in claim 23, wherein said embedded system includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

displaying an on-screen display;

selecting the first application via the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display when the first application is selected; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program to start the first application program when the first application program is selected.

25. A method as recited in claim 24, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the first application;

exiting the first application;

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program when the first application has been exited; and

displaying the on-screen display.

26. A method as recited in claim 25, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting the second application via the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display when the second application is selected; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program to start the second application when the second application is selected.

27. A method as recited in claim 26, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the second application;

exiting the second application;

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program when the second application has been exited; and

displaying the on-screen display.

28. A method as recited in claim 27, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

selecting to exit the on-screen display;

exiting the on-screen display; and

sending a message to the graphics resource manager program to suspend the on-screen display.

29. A method as recited in claim 28, wherein said embedded system further includes programming for carrying out the operations of:

displaying television content.